



Calendar



Fri, Dec 22	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at PO lobby!
Sat, Dec 23	Garrett Park Farmers Market, Penn Place/CSX Parking Lot, 9am–1pm (<i>Jara and Augustine will be away but Christine will be there!</i>)
Mon, Dec 25	Christmas Day, Town Office is closed No Trash Pickup No Recycling
Sat, Dec 30	No Farmers Market
Mon, Jan 1	New Years Day, Town Office is closed No Trash Pickup No Recycling
Thur, Jan 4	GPJams, Town Hall, 8pm
Sat, Jan 6	Gives Collection, PO Lobby, 9am–12noon No Farmers Market Large-item Pickup

Mon, Jan 8	Christmas tree pickup—curbside, be sure to remove all tinsel and decorations! Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 8pm
Tue, Jan 9	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30pm
Wed, Jan 10	Archives Committee Meeting, Town Office, 7:30pm
Sat, Jan 13	Garrett Park Farmers Market, Penn Place/CSX Parking Lot, 10am–1pm <i>(winter hours Jan thru Mar)</i> Last day to see Chris Bailey’s Art at Penn Place! GPJams Coffeehouse, Town Hall, 7:30pm
Mon, Jan 15	Martin Luther King Observance, Town Office is closed No Trash Pickup No Recycling
Thur, Jan 18	GPJams, Town Hall, 8pm
Sat, Jan 27	Town Dinner, Town Hall, 6pm

Quick Work on a Chilly Night!

On a chilly December 11, the Town Council met promptly at 7:30pm, minus Council members Phil Schulp and Jane McClintock. As usual the meeting began with citizen presentations.

Long-time resident Gideon Kantor rose to address the issue of house demolitions. Gideon is concerned that an accelerating pace of demolitions and construction of large homes in their place is changing the character of our Town in a negative direction. He proposed that the Council pass an ordinance prohibiting all demolitions unless there is a safety issue with the existing house. Mayor Benjamin noted the concern, which many in Town have expressed. He explained that the Town does

have an ordinance which requires a town permit and review by the historical preservation committee. However, the overriding constraint on the Town is Maryland state law, which does not allow town governments to enact the kind of ordinance that Gideon proposed. Oh well.

Chris Keller then rose to address variance issues. He began by informing the council that the January Council meeting will consider a variance he has submitted (but not in time for consideration at the December meeting). His purpose at this meeting was to alert the Council to some problems with the explanation of variance procedures. For example, he noted that the Town's web site has some

Continued next page

contradictory information with explanations that are occasionally at odds with the underlying ordinances (ordinances which were revised at the time Chris was mayor). The issue is not the ordinances, but the documentation of the regulations and procedures for citizens requesting a variance (e.g., how many days in advance of a Council meeting the variance must be submitted to be considered by the Council). Council member Janet Welch will look into revising the relevant documents.

Following these two presentations, the Council moved on to approving the minutes of the last meeting. There was a silent pause of a couple minutes while the members read the revised version which they had not yet seen. Satisfied with the revisions (except for not being sure about whether one minor item had been mentioned at the November meeting—which will be checked against the recording of the meeting), the minutes were approved unanimously. Why is your reporter telling you all this? I'll let you know at the end of this report.

Next came the only action item of the evening: a mid-year budget adjustment. It seems that the Town of Garrett Park is in the happy position of having more revenues than initially expected in the budget. The increase in revenues comes from both an increase in transfers from Montgomery County and a higher than anticipated carryover from the previous fiscal year. In total, this amounts to an increase of \$153,862—an increase of just under 12 percent from the original budget. Yay! The revised budget will allocate these extra funds to “technology” (\$3,862 to purchase computer equipment) and streets/sidewalks (\$125,000).

Town Manager Gene Swearingen’s monthly report was equally upbeat. Revenues and expenditures have been within budget so far this year. And CSX has been doing some work (now completed) to fix a drainage pipe under its tracks by Porcupine Woods. (We are talking a sizable pipe here—4 feet wide and 5 feet high.) Members speculated that this was the first repair of this pipe in a hundred years!

That news ended the meeting. Adjournment was at 7:55pm—only 25 minutes. That’s why your reporter padded the report with marginal material about approving the minutes of the previous meeting.

Ed Lincoln, Bugle Reporter

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Notes from the Arboretum Committee

A Walk to Remember... For Those Cold Winter Days!

The chill of autumn and a damp mist was in the forecast as an initial group of 25 hearty souls and at least three dogs gathered in front of the Town Post Office on the early drab afternoon of November 5th for the Arboretum Committee’s Annual Fall Tree Walk. Town Arborist Phil Normandy took a few minutes to explain the special relationship that Garrett Park has with its trees and how we strive to continue to manage, expand and replace where necessary our diverse collection of trees. Phil also explained that since we had such a dry September, the colors weren’t what we normally experience. However, the mild nights had caused the leaves to linger on the trees much longer than usual, and so the walk was more colorful and fulsome than usual for early November.

The expedition began through Porcupine Woods where only a week before, the transformed Spooky Woods had “terrorized” us on a balmy night. But instead of seeing ghosts in the mist, we saw some new plantings – Pawpaws, Aesculus and Redbud. We then proceeded to the intersection of Clermont and Montrose where Phil explained why the Ash at that location was going to be removed – an unfortunate infestation of ash borer– and emphasized how in addition to continually updating our planting of new species, the Town always tries to stay vigilant and stay up to date on removing trees when necessary.

We then proceeded along Montrose to Argyle, discussing how the Town chose various types of trees for different streets (for instance Ginkos on

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Weymouth, Sugar Maples on Waverly, and Plane Trees on Keswick). Phil also noted that even when we chose a certain species for a street, the Town was careful to choose different varieties, so that if a particular disease hit, an entire street's planting would not be wiped out.

On Argyle, the group engaged in a discussion of the Redbuds, and then the group (with a few additions and subtractions) headed down Kenilworth, viewing a large oak that had died and was about to be removed. The misty rain that had been predicted held off just long enough for us to make it down to Rokeby and a discussion of how the Town successfully culled some invasive species such as Pin Oaks along Kenilworth. Heading downhill towards Rokeby, the group viewed the Town's largest giant Tulip Poplar at Albermarle and Rokeby, as an example of what a Tulip Poplar with access to plenty of space and sunlight can aspire to. This led to a discussion of some of the truly giant trees that inhabit our Town – most reside on private property.

We proceeded up Rokeby, past some beautiful late fall English gardens with irises still blooming – and back to the Post Office where the group thanked Phil Normandy for his informative explanations, and then what remained of the group dispersed.

Autumn is a special time when Garrett Park can be proud to appreciate our colorful arboretum, but it is also a time to appreciate that the planting, managing, pruning, removal, and constant evaluation of our unique canopy isn't seasonal, and never really stops.

– Michael Spekter



A Fall Display --Garrett Park Trees in Color at the Fork (Kenilworth & Waverly)

Photo by Kacky

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Did You Know?



In 1965, there was a proposal to build townhouses on the woodland property now known as Porcupine Woods. After a long battle, the Town was able to obtain an Open Space Grant to purchase the land from the owners and preserve it as a park. The name comes from the mascot adopted by the Town during these embattled years. The porcupine is normally a docile creature, but it can become very prickly when attacked!

-Excerpt from GP Brochure "A Walking Tour"

Green Tip of the Month

It's the gift giving season. Wondering what to do with old smartphones, tablets or computers?

The [Montgomery County Shady Grove Transfer Station](#) will take them for [recycling](#) at no cost as part of your county services. Working computers and other electronics can be donated through the [Montgomery County Volunteer Center](#). Your old cell phones can be donated to benefit individuals in the community who are at risk of domestic violence. Include the battery and charging device. The Montgomery County Family Justice Foundation has [several drop-off points in Rockville](#).

Best Buy accepts many devices for [recycling](#), as does [Staples](#).

The **Garrett Bugle** is a newsletter publication by the Citizens Association of Garrett Park and published 10 times a year. Publication is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$25 per family or \$15 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896. Articles, ads and other content for the *Garrett Bugle* can be emailed to GPBugle@googlegroups.com.*

Citizens Association Officers

Darshini Trivedi, President ~ Michael Lutkenhouse and Lesley Maloney, Vice-Presidents ~ Bridget Silverman, Treasurer ~ Sean Conlan, Secretary

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Calendar and Subscriptions: Joanne Schmader (Box 415) ~ First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (no bulk mail).

*Editor and staff reserve the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned Letters to the Editor will not be printed.

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

♪ WJ 9th graders **Gianna Schulp (GP) & Caroline Melton** (White Flint Park) are busy monitoring the new *GoGoSqueez* recycling program they implemented at Garrett Park Elementary School in May, earning their Girl Scout Silver Award as 8th graders. The Girl Scout Silver Award offers Scouts in 6-8 grade the opportunity to make a positive change in the community.

In just 4 months, the girls have shipped more than 1,500 plastic pouches & caps(almost 70 lbs!) to the recycling plant. This successful recycling program is now a daily part of GPES students' lunch routine.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Services for Seniors

- Bathing
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Would you like to receive a brochure in the mail, or set up an appointment?

Town Manager Notes

Leaf removal and composting. Leaf removal will continue into early January depending on the weather. Motorists, please use a little extra caution around the huge piles of leaves throughout town.



Parents, please be extra mindful of vehicular and bike traffic, and discourage your children from playing in the curbside leaf piles.

Also take care to keep rocks and other heavy items out of the leaf piles as they can damage the collection equipment.

Holiday Gifts. Residents who would like to make a holiday gift to the six men who take away our trash, recycling, and yard waste, should mail a check to the Town of Garrett Park, PO Box 84, or drop it off at the Town Office. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Garrett Park with "Holiday Fund" as the memo. The Town will send each contributor an acknowledgement and will see that the fund is properly distributed during the Christmas holiday.

Office Closure. The Town office will be closed on December 25 for Christmas Day and on January 1 for New Year's Day.

The Town staff wishes everyone a very happy and safe holiday. We look forward to serving you in 2018!

Gene Swearingen, Town Manager



Almanac Weather for This Winter

BIG SNOW!! Are you ready for this? Well, we hope so 'cause that's what the *2018 Farmers Almanac of Maine* is predicting. Well, actually, it may not be really big snow, but it is predicting a snowier winter than usual. For example, the almanac is "red flagging the 2018 dates of Jan 20-23, Feb 4-7 and 16-19, and March 1-3 and 20-23 along the Atlantic Seaboard for some heavy precipitation."

Is the *Farmers Almanac*, which has been dishing out forecasts since 1818, always right? Who knows. The almanac makes long-term weather forecasts that uses founder David Young's formula based on sunspots, tidal action and some other mysterious factors. Temperature wise, the almanac is predicting a much colder winter than we experienced last year. So break out those sleds, mittens, and four-wheel drive vehicles, hunker down by the fire, and wait and see what happens!

Researched by Carol Davies

9am-9pm Mon-Sat 9am-7pm Sunday

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Citizens Association Note

NICE TO MEET YOU!—Town Dinner

The 2018 Town Dinner, presented by the Garrett Park Citizens Association, is Saturday, January 27. The theme for this year is “Nice to meet you.” Bring your stories about how you met your significant other, neighbor or friend. The doors of the Town Hall (Kenilworth Avenue) will open at 6:00pm and we will sit down at 6:30pm.

As always, this is a pot luck dinner. Along with your own serving and eating utensils, you are asked to bring one of the following: appetizer, salad and bread, main dish, or dessert (enough for 8 to 10 people). Please RSVP to Sean Conlan (sconlan@gmail.com or 518-229-1735) to let us know you are coming and what you’ll be bringing. Alcoholic beverages will not be provided, however, please feel free to BYOB. A fee of \$5 per person will be collected at the door to cover the cost of decorations, non-alcoholic drinks, and paper goods. This is also a convenient time to pay your annual CA dues (\$15 for individuals and \$25 per family). *Please invite your neighbors and friends who have not been to a Town Dinner before!*

Call for Nominations and Citizens Association Happy Hour

The CA will be sponsoring a Happy Hour in the new year for past, present, and future members of the CA Board. Stay tuned for an email via the list serv. We will be voting for this year’s slate of CA officers at the annual Town Dinner on Saturday, January 27. If you or anyone you know is interested in serving on the CA Board, please email your nominations to Darshini Trivedi (darshinibtrivedi@gmail.com). The Citizens Association is nothing without you!

Future Meetings. Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the Town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Darshini Trivedi (darshinibtrivedi@gmail.com) or send a note to Box 456.

Annual Dues. The Citizens Association annual dues are still being collected for 2017. The annual dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

Garrett Park Listserv. Our neighborhood is made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv. The listserv is an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues,

upcoming events, and recommended services (for example, contractors, lawn care, doctors, and baby sitters). The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at <https://groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join>.

As our year draws to a close, it’s once again time to ask for volunteers to serve on the Citizens Association “Executive Board.” Our officers need to rotate off periodically to give them a break and to bring fresh ideas to the Citizens Association. Our annual elections are at the Town Dinner (see below) in January and we are hoping that you’ll consider serving. Please contact Darshini (CA President; darshinibtrivedi@gmail.com) or Sean (CA Secretary; sconlan@gmail.com) if you are interested in serving on the Executive Board.

The Citizens Association Wishes Everyone Happy Holidays and a Safe and Happy New Year!

Save the Date. 2018 Town Dinner- Saturday, January 27, 2018- Theme: *Nice to Meet You.*



Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to Box 456 or e-mail Darshini Trivedi at darshinibtrived@gmail.com.



Green Banner Contribution

Help Us Stay Green!

If anyone would like to support the Green Banner in future months, please make out a check to the Citizens Association (CA) for \$45 with “Green Banner” in the subject line; and mail it to the CA at Box 456. If you would like to dedicate your sponsorship to someone or something, please also include a note to that effect. Thank you.



Creative Contributions

By Town Residents

Squirrels

The silly battle to keep squirrels off
the bird feeder is a lost cause.

When the black dog bursts out,
they scam, agile and teasing,
showing off flamboyant tricks
like one-leg hanging and multi-tree leaps.
They make a mockery of space.

They tightrope across a wire at top speed,
nimble prance along the points of fence pickets,
then sit in a tight curl on a small branch
to flick their light gray tails in 4/4 time.
No anger is that rhythmic.
They're laughing.

No feeder stops them for long.
Plastic? They chew through it.
Wood? Tastes like filet mignon.
Baffle? Just a reason to try some new stunts.
Wire? A Bar Exam for squirrels.
They could solve a Rubik's Cube in seconds.

They win merit badges for Squirrel Skills in
things like Ingenuity, Close Calls, Inverted eating.
If they could sing they'd be great at jazz,
just hoping I'll try a new feeder so they can
Ella their way to seed paradise.

They've been around for ages.
They taught Charlie Chaplin
and circus acrobats,
Evel Knevel and bungee jumpers.
They even have a Hall of Fame.

All they get from me is seeds.
I can live with that.

Edwin Sundt

~ * ~ * ~ *

[Editor's recognition: John King on Argyle correctly
named "geocache" as the object described in last
issue's poem, "A Hiker's Find." He won a
Starbucks' gift card! Congratulations John!]

Yoga for All Levels

Tuesdays, 6:15–7:30 pm, 8–9 pm
Garrett Park Town Hall

Classes include stretching, alignment, restorative and
breathing work, meditation, and relaxation.

*"Tuesday night's class showed me how out of shape my core is!
Thank you for bringing your experience and knowledge into the
practice... not only is my mind refreshed, but my body says thank
you for the stretching and awareness"*

Questions? Email Liz at gayatrimantra.liz@gmail.com
Visit lilylotusyoga.com

What We're

Cooking...



[Editor's note: This is the
second in a monthly series from Nikki Forry. –Nikki
says this recipe is from one of her favorite vegetarian
cookbooks- Simple Vegetarian Pleasures by Jeanne
Lemlin. It is super-easy, light, and pretty healthy.]

Angel Hair with Spinach and Feta Cheese in Garlic Sauce

Ingredients & Materials

- ¼ cup olive oil
- 8 garlic cloves, minced
- ½ tsp crushed red pepper flakes
- 3 Tbsp finely chopped walnuts
- 1 lb bunch or 1 package (10 oz) of fresh
spinach (can use frozen spinach, but you have
to drain it)...be sure to cut up the spinach so it
doesn't get stringy when you cook it
- ½ tsp salt
- ¾ cup milk
- 1 lb angel hair pasta
- 4 oz crumbled feta cheese (~ ¾ cup)
- 2 Tbsp Romano cheese

Directions

Cook angel hair pasta until al dente (follow
instructions on box).

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add
garlic, red pepper flakes, and walnuts and cook 1
minute, stirring frequently.

Pile on spinach and immediately cover pan.
Cook until spinach wilts (~3 mins.) (If using frozen
spinach, just add to garlic mixture.) Mix in salt and
milk and keep the sauce warm over low heat.

Combine spinach mixture and pasta, then
sprinkle on feta and Romano cheeses. Toss and serve.



* This is really weird, but about 1 day after it is
made, the pasta will turn purple. Don't be alarmed,
it's still good, it's something about the spinach! ☺

~ * ~ * ~ *

[From Henri Keller—I have attached George Payne's Dundee Cake recipe from the 1981 Garrett Park Cookbook. George had an English father and Dutch mother and was a long-time Council Member and Mayor. His contributions to the 1981 cookbook were both English and Dutch. George was an active participant in many activities of the Town, including the Garrett Park Players. He was known for his wit and his clever way with words. If you were very lucky, you would receive a Dundee Cake at the holidays! –I have selected the Dundee Cake because it is associated with the holidays.]

From “Garrett Park Cookbook III” (1981)

- 1 lb butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 8 eggs
- 1 1/2 - 2 tsp almond extract
- 6 cups sifted flour
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 1/3 cups milk
- 1 1/2 cups currants
- 3 cups golden raisins
- 3/4 cup candied citron peel
- 3/4 cup lemon or orange peel
- 1 cup slivered almonds

Wash and dry the currants. Preheat oven to 325°.

Cream until fluffy the butter and sugar.

Beat in the eggs, one egg at a time. Add the almond extract.

Mix together the flour, salt and baking powder. Add to the butter/sugar/egg mixture, alternating with the milk. Fold in the currants, raisins, and citrus peel.

Pour into buttered bowls or deep pans. Decorate tops with slivered almonds.

Bake about 75 minutes at 325°.

*This makes 7 pounds of batter, so it will make several cakes.

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[Editor's note: This is the third installment of a monthly series of book recommendations collected by Brian Mizoguchi for your reading pleasure. –Some are even being read by Book Clubs around Town!]

Ring in the New Year with an engaging book!
Here's a couple of ideas:

The Billion Dollar Spy, by David Hoffman (Doubleday). The remarkable but true story of one of the most consequential spying missions of the Cold War. Richly researched, this peek behind the curtain reveals the rules and craft of espionage, and above all, the human element that drives a spy, his handlers, and his (local) betrayer(s).

<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/06/books/review-in-the-billion-dollar-spy-david-e-hoffman-recalls-a-cold-war-spy.html>

What She Ate: Six Remarkable Women And The Food That Tells Their Stories, by Laura Shapiro (Penguin Random House). A tasty type of spying, *What She Ate* looks at the lives of six notable women from different centuries and continents, using the author's biographical tool of, in effect, "standing in line at the supermarket and peering into the other carts."

<https://www.npr.org/2017/08/09/542394016/what-she-ate-reveals-the-plates-and-palates-of-6-notable-women>

If you have any books you'd like to recommend, please send in your thoughts for the next edition of "What We're Reading" to Brian Mizoguchi, GPBugle@googlegroups.com.

Brian Mizoguchi, Bugle Writer



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[Editor's correction: Lee Pope, subject of last month's article, "A Special Request," was incorrectly referred to as "he" in the hard copy edition. The mistake was corrected in time for the digital version. Our sincere apologies.]

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January 2018

Letter from the Mayor

As we approach the end of 2017, I wish each of you a happy holiday season, and my hopes that 2018 will be more positive in every way than your experiences in 2017. We live in a beautiful Town with the unique distinction of the entire Town being a National Historic District, an arboretum, and a nuclear free zone. We are a small, close community where our neighbors are also friends, and we have the benefits of our own governmental services and our ability to influence what our local government does. We are also an island within a thriving metropolitan area with substantial cultural, educational, athletic, entertainment, transportation and economic benefits. That is a great basis to start from when looking forward to a wonderful new year.

You may have noticed the heavy equipment near Penn Place in recent weeks. That was CSX railroad clearing the culvert under its tracks that carries storm water from the Town. For many years we have had flooding in Porcupine Woods because that culvert was plugged and would only let a small flow of the water from a storm through, creating a lake at the CSX embankment. For the last several years we have been asking CSX to clear the culvert but have not been able to get the railroad to act.

About two years ago we asked our then Congressman Chris Van Hollen to help us convince CSX to clear its culvert. Even then CSX inspected the culvert but made no motion to fix the problem. Then our Congressman became our Senator and shortly thereafter we received a call from CSX saying that they wanted to see what they could do to ameliorate our problem. It took several months and a few tries that were insufficient before CSX decided to bring in the large equipment required to do the job, but they finally did so and the culvert is clear. We thank Senator Van Hollen and his persistent staff for representing us successfully in this quest.

The stormwater project associated with the sidewalks project enhances the flow and reduces the erosion of the flow as it enters Porcupine Woods. When we have both ends fixed we will probably have to work some on the rest of the flow area.

We have also completed this year's installment of road repair and repaving, part of a multi-year capital improvement plan we have developed for replacing and rehabilitating all of the Town's equipment and facilities. With this year's repaving, we have done almost all of the deep patching major repair required to correct years of superficial maintenance and will be moving into a regular repaving schedule. We have the persistent attention of Council member Hans Wegner to thank for his

advocacy of developing, funding and implementing the capital improvement plan. Without his efforts this probably would not have happened. To maintain the quality of our facilities and equipment we need to continue to carry out this rehabilitation and replacement program indefinitely.

Our next major efforts should be the historic rehabilitation of the Town Hall and the development and implementation of a town-wide stormwater management plan. And, of course, we plan to build the new and replacement sidewalks in the coming year.

As we look to 2018, we see many challenges and opportunities to enhance this special Town in which we live. Your town government looks forward to working with all of you in those efforts. Have a Happy New Year!

Peter Benjamin

David Altar
David.Altar1@gmail.com

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~ Garrett Park resident ~

